

Remarks

The following is a response to the Office Action dated April 28, 2009 in which claims 7 -10 stand rejected under Stern et al (US 5232449), and claims 2, 4-5 and 11-12 have been allowed.

The undersigned thanks the examiner for the allowance of claims 2, 4-5 and 11-12.

Claim 7 has been amended to recite that the plunger is driven in a forward movement to dispense medication, and is driven in reverse when the force on the plunger is detected to be above a predetermined value such that the detected force is reduced to below the predetermined value. The support for the added limitations may be found on page 4, lines 6-9 and 15-17 of the specification.

Such movement in reverse until the detected force is reduced below the predetermined level is not disclosed or suggested by Stern. In particular, the motor 34 (Fig 4) that drives a syringe pusher 22 to urge the plunger of the syringe into engagement with the end of the syringe barrel in the Stern device is shut off when an occlusion is detected. This is done by means of an "occlusion" switch 92 (Figs 10A and 10B) that, when closed or activated, disconnects the motor 34 from the power supply to shut off the motor 34 (col 7, lines 35-39; col 8, line 66 to col 9, line 27; col 9, lines 50-62). Thus, the motor in the Stern device is shut off completely when an occlusion is detected.

In view of the foregoing, the examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application and allow all pending claims. In the event the examiner has any questions in regard to this response, he is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,


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